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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

20 JUNE 2019

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Hanford – Multi-Agency Operation Nets 54 Arrests in Kings County Gang Takedown

(U) California Attorney General Xavier Becerra announced the execution of a multi-agency operation undertaken to dismantle the Norteño street gangs engaged in criminal activity in Kings and Tulare Counties. The operation resulted in the arrest of 54 individuals and the seizure of 53 firearms and over 36-pounds of drugs. The joint effort was part of a multi-agency operation known as Red Reaper, the product of a ten-month investigation that began in September 2018. The alleged criminal activities included murder, drug trafficking, robbery, extortion, and the manufacture, trafficking, and possession of illegal firearms.

SOURCE: 19 June 2019, CA DOJ

(U) Sacramento – Police Officer Killed, Suspect in Custody after Standoff

(U) A female Sacramento police officer responding to a domestic violence incident in north Sacramento was killed last night after being ambushed by a gunman with a rifle who held off officers from inside a house for nearly eight hours before surrendering early this morning. The shooting occurred in the Noralto neighborhood and the suspect fired his rifle off and on for hours before a negotiator talked him into giving up. Authorities identified the officer as Tara O'Sullivan, 26, and said she had been shot while trying to help a woman move belongings out of a home. The man was not immediately identified. SOURCE: 20 June 2019, Sacramento Bee

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Florida – City Pays \$600,000 Ransom to Save Computer Records

(U) Riviera Beach – A Florida city agreed to pay \$600,000 in ransom to hackers who took over its computer system, the latest in thousands of attacks worldwide aimed at extorting money from governments and businesses. The Riviera Beach City Council voted unanimously this week to pay the hackers' demands, believing the Palm Beach suburb had no choice if it wanted to retrieve its records, which the hackers encrypted. The hackers apparently got into the city's system when an employee clicked on an email link that allowed them to upload malware.

SOURCE: 20 June 2019, Associated Press

(U) Pennsylvania - Syrian Refugee Charged With Plotting to Bomb Church

(U) Pittsburgh – Authorities arrested Mustafa Mousab Alowemer yesterday based on a federal complaint charging him with one count of attempting to provide material support and resources to the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), and two counts of distributing information relating to an explosive, destructive device or weapon of mass destruction in relation to a plan to attack a church. Alowemer allegedly planned to bomb the Legacy International Worship Center using a weapon of mass destruction. The FBI said Alowemer thought he was plotting online and in-person with fellow ISIS sympathizers, but they were actually undercover for the FBI.

SOURCE: 20 June 2019, Action News 4

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(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Colombia – Armed Groups Recruiting Desperate Venezuelans

(U) Arauca – Venezuela's crisis is spilling across the border into Colombia as Marxist rebels and right-wing paramilitaries recruit migrants to strengthen their ranks, according to five Colombian military commanders. Violence still simmers in Colombia despite a 2016 peace deal with leftist FARC rebels, meant to end five-decades of conflict. Dissident FARC fighters, the rebel National Liberation Army (ELN), right-wing paramilitaries and drug-trafficking gangs are battling each other and the military. Keen for recruits, these armed groups are targeting Venezuelans as they traverse the porous 1,380-mile frontier at illegal border crossings. Five military commanders stated that as many as 30% of insurgents in Colombia's eastern border region are Venezuelans, willing to take up arms in return for food and pay. SOURCE: 20 June 2019, Reuters

(U) Germany – Mayors Receive Death Threats after Suspected Far-Right Murder

(U) Wolfhagen – At least two German mayors with pro-migrant policies have received death threats by mail, a few weeks after the murder of a senior local politician by a suspected far-right radical. The closerange shooting of Walter Luebcke at his home in central Germany on 2 June and the arrest of a man officials say had far-right sympathies has shocked Germans, and authorities say it should be a wake-up call. German police said at least two local mayors had received death threats in the mail but declined to confirm media reports that the anonymous threats warned of "purging" and ended with the words "Sieg Heil" and "Heil Hitler." It was unclear if there was a direct link to the Luebcke case.

SOURCE: 20 June 2019, Reuters

(U) Iran – US Military Drone Shot-down Over Strait of Hormuz

(U) Tehran – Iran shot down a US military drone today, US and Iranian officials said, the latest in an escalating series of incidents across the Middle East that has stoked fears of a wider military conflict. Less than a week after the US accused Iran of attacking tankers, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said its air force brought down an American surveillance drone in a southern coastal region along the Strait of Hormuz. The IRGC said the drone had violated its airspace and crashed into Iranian waters. The American military confirmed that an Iranian surface-to-air missile shot down an unmanned drone, but denied the aircraft was in Iranian airspace.

SOURCE: 20 June 2019, The Wall Street Journal

(U) Spain – Authorities Arrest Gang Involved in Financing 'Al-Qa'ida Militia'

(U) Madrid – On 18 June, Spanish police detained 10 nationals of Syrian origin accused of financing "al-Qa'ida terrorist militia" in Syria, the interior ministry and a source close to the probe said. With Europol's collaboration, more than 350 agents took part in an operation in Madrid, further south in Toledo and the eastern province of Valencia. Fourteen homes and other premises were searched by officers. The organization was led by a family clan that for years allegedly used a legal business structure to hide illicit operations with which they evaded tax authorities and laundered large amounts of money," the ministry said in a statement. A large part of the stash of cash amassed went to the opposition-held province of Idlib in Syria to "give support and financial backing to terrorist militia there.

SOURCE: 18 June 2019, France 24

- (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.
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